MARVEL

EWING
COELLO
D'ARMATA

VENOM WAR

3 OF FIVE

RATED **T+**

ALCHEMAX HQ.
GROUND ZERO FOR THE ZOMBIOTE PLAGUE.

HOW'S THE VIEW?

I SPY, WITH MY LITTLE EYE... SYMBIOTE GOO AND BLOOD, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, SCREAMING HUMAN MEAT... AND LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL FEAR.

ALL THIS JUST FOR LITTLE OLD ME, EDDIE? YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE.

CARNAGE.
SYMBIOTE SATAN.

MY NAME IS MERIDIUS, CARNAGE. EDDIE BROCK IS SOMEONE ELSE--MY PATHETIC PAST. OR MAYBE I'M HIS IDEAL FUTURE.

EITHER WAY, ALL HE IS RIGHT NOW IS A BAG OF FLESH TIRING HIMSELF OUT IN A POINTLESS WAR.

MERIDIUS.
FALLEN EDDIE.

ONCE THAT BATTLE'S DONE... THAT'S WHEN I SWOOP IN.

ONCE I HAVE VENOM BACK, THAT'S WHEN THINGS KICK INTO HIGH GEAR...

...NOT THAT PLANS AREN'T ACCELERATING NOW--EH, CARLTON?

GOOD BOY.

"THE ZOMBIOTE STRAIN *ALREADY* SPREADS LIKE A *DISEASE*...

OH MY!

I-IS THIS THE *END* FOR *WILLIE LUMPKIN*?

LORD HAVE MERCY--

AAAHHH!

"...WITH A *BITE*..."

"...PROPAGATING *WITHIN* EACH NEW HOST-- *LIVING OR DEAD.*

"CORPSES BECOME *'CRAWLERS'*--SHAMBLING, MINDLESS *REMNANTS.* BUT *LIVING VICTIMS* ARE EVEN *MORE* DANGEROUS.

"THEY RETAIN ALL THEIR ORIGINAL *SPEED*...ALL THEIR *STRENGTH*...

"...AND ANY *SPECIAL POWERS.*"

WIGGLE!

WIGGLE!

"AND THESE 'SWINGERS' CAN DRAW ON THE SYMBIOTE'S ***INNATE*** ABILITIES TOO.

TWIP

"AND SO THE CONTAGION ***SPREADS***--GENERATING ***NEW SYMBIOTE MATTER*** UNDER ***MY CONTROL...***"

EVENTUALLY, I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO REBUILD THE GARDEN ***YOU*** DESTROYED IN THE FUTURE... BUT THANKS TO ***VENOM,*** IT'LL BE ***NEW AND IMPROVED.*** A ***VENOMWORLD.***

AND IN THE FUTURE ***I'M*** BUILDING, IT'LL BE ALL ***MINE***--NOT MY IDIOT ***SON'S.***

SO WHEN YOU SHOWED ***EDDIE*** THAT VISION*... I'M AFRAID YOU ONLY ***HELPED*** ME, CARNAGE.

*BACK IN ***VENOM #32.***

I ***HOPE*** THERE ARE NO... ***HARD FEELINGS.***

I'D HATE FOR US TO FALL OUT ***NOW.***

I KNOW A WINNER WHEN I ***SEE*** ONE, ***EDDIE,*** AND I'M HAPPY TO WATCH YOU ***WORK.***

BUT HAVE YOU ***REALLY*** THOUGHT OF ***EVERYTHING...?***

IS THIS WHERE YOU SHOW YOUR **TRUE COLORS,** CARNAGE? THREATEN ME AGAIN WITH THAT **PIGSTICKER** OF YOURS?

ALL- BLOOD THE NECRO- SPEAR.

AND YOU OF **ALL** PEOPLE KNOW HOW **POWERFUL** THIS WEAPON CAN BE...

YET **DESPITE** ALL THAT POWER, I'M STILL **STANDING.**

WITH MY **ARMY OF ZOMBIOTES...**

SIMMER **DOWN,** EDDIE. WE'RE JUST **TALKING**-- A NICE, FRIENDLY CHAT BETWEEN **EQUALS.**

AND **AS** YOUR EQUAL, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A **FRIENDLY WARNING...**

"...THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU MAY HAVE **RIGGED THE GAME...**

HHHRRR...

HEY, **MAILMAN!**

"...THERE'S ALWAYS A WILD CARD."

SPECIAL DELIVERY.

FLASH THOMPSON, AGENT ANTI-VENOM.

IT'S WHO HE IS. IT'S WHAT HE FIRES.

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

HSSSS...!

SPLUTCH

...SSSUFFERIN' CATS! I'M ME AGAIN!

YOU NEED TO GET INDOORS RIGHT NOW, OKAY? BOTH OF YOU--SHELTER IN PLACE UNTIL IT'S SAFE.

ARE YOU-- ARE YOU CURING EVERYBODY?

JUST TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY RIGHT NOW. I'M A SQUIRT GUN UP AGAINST A FOREST FIRE.

BUT IF I CAN GET TO GRAND GARDEN ARENA AND TALK SOME SENSE INTO EDDIE BROCK, MAYBE HE CAN STOP ALL THIS...

"...BEFORE THIS GETS ANY CRAZIER."

KAAANNG.

HUH?

N-NOTHING!

DON'T ACT UP, RASCAL--

RED GOBLIN.
NORMIE OSBORN.

TOXIN.
BREN WATERS.

"--THIS IS SERIOUS!"

THE PRINCE IN BLACK.
DYLAN BROCK, WEARING SLEEPER AND FLEXO.

STAND DOWN, DAD.

OR WHAT? YOU'LL TURN YOUR HYBRID SYMBIOTE ON ME? SHOOT ME WITH YOUR BIG GUN?

BEDLAM.
EDDIE BROCK, WEARING HIMSELF. (LONG STORY.)

EDDIE...

THE VENOMOUS SPIDER-MAN.
PETER PARKER, WEARING VENOM.

GUNS ARE FOR WIMPS, BOY--

--REAL MEN KILL WITH THEIR HANDS!

AAARRGH--

NO!

MY SON SAID **STAND DOWN,** BEDLAM--

OH, THANK GOD.

--THAT MEANS ***DOWN!***

YOU--

DOWN, I SAID. ***I'M IN CHARGE,*** REMEMBER...

...AND WHATEVER ***ELSE*** I AM, I'M NOT ***YOU.***

BECAUSE I WILL ***NEVER*** RAISE A HAND TO MY OWN CHILD.

WHAT DO YOU ***SAY,*** DYLAN? LET'S...LET'S PUT THE SYMBIOTES ***AWAY,*** SON. LET'S JUST ***TALK.***

LET'S ***END*** THIS.

FLEXO...?

UH!

FLEXO. THIS IS THE VOICE OF DOOM... COMMANDING YOU TO REMEMBER.

DOCTOR DOOM.
FAR IN THE PAST.

METAL FACE?

REMEMBER WHAT...?

EDDIE BROCK. THE SO-CALLED KING IN BLACK.

WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, YOU WILL BE THE HAND OF MY VENGEANCE AGAINST HIM...

...AND HIS OWN SON WILL BE YOUR WEAPON!

WHAT...?

NO, FLEXO! STOP!

DYLAN...?

NOOOO!

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

VENOM WAR

PART 3
SAY HELLO TO THE BAD GUY

Having seen disparate, dystopian versions of the future, **EDDIE** and **DYLAN BROCK** are now at WAR over who should remain bonded to VENOM. But the Venom symbiote, having contemplated its destructive capabilities, has returned to its original host: **PETER PARKER, A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.**

Though Peter proposed keeping Venom for himself to de-escalate the brawl, the Brocks are now in an arms race. Eddie and **BEDLAM** supercharged their powers by brutishly absorbing their allies, forcing Dylan to bond with **FLEXO** and **SLEEPER** to end the chaos!

Meanwhile, **MERIDIUS**, an evil, alternate-future Eddie Brock, has unleashed a **PLAGUE** of **ZOMBIOTES**--symbiote zombies--to regain his title as **THE KING IN BLACK**, the ruler of the symbiote race. As chaos ascends in the **VENOM WAR**, Meridius received a surprise visit from an unexpected visitor: **CARNAGE**, Venom's murderous and bloodthirsty progeny. But what is the crimson-clad killer truly after?

TEAM EDDIE

EDDIE BROCK

BEDLAM

TEAM DYLAN

DYLAN BROCK

TOXIN/ BREN WATERS

RED GOBLIN/ NORMIE OSBORN

FLEXO

SLEEPER

UNDECLARED

SPIDER-MAN/ PETER PARKER

THE VENOM SYMBIOTE

MERIDIUS

FLASH THOMPSON/ AGENT ANTI-VENOM

CARNAGE

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WHAT A WAY TO COME BACK FROM COMMERCIAL!

DID HE REALLY JUST **GUN DOWN HIS OWN FATHER...?**

HARD TO SAY WHO WAS PULLING THE **TRIGGER,** SAWBONES--BUT ONE THING'S FOR **SURE...**

...EDDIE BROCK **WON'T** BE GETTING UP FROM **THAT!**

DAD...?

SOMETHING... SOMETHING **WRONG...**

CAN'T **HEAL** PROPERLY...

I WILL TEACH YOU A **VARIATION** ON THE **OVOID MIND-EXCHANGE PROCESS--** THAT DISLOCATES AN OPPONENT'S **PSYCHE,** SO THAT **DOOM'S** MAY **REPLACE** IT.

AT THE PROPER MOMENT--WHEN BROCK IS **NO LONGER REINFORCED BY A SYMBIOTE--**THIS WILL SHIFT HIS **SOUL** OUT OF ALIGNMENT WITH HIS **PHYSICAL FORM.**

ONCE YOU'VE **DISRUPTED** HIS CONTROL OVER HIS PHYSICAL BODY-- **DAMAGE HIM,** FASTER THAN HE CAN HEAL. CONVEY MY **VENGEANCE...** AND **YOURS.**

DESTROY EDDIE BROCK...

...BY HIS SON'S OWN HAND!

NO! I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

SLEEPER-- YOU'RE PART OF THIS TOO!

DO SOMETHING!

HSSSS! I'M *TRYING,* DYLAN--BUT FLEXO'S SO MUCH *OLDER--* SO MUCH --

--STRONGERRR--

BIFF

[illegible]

KAAANNG.

SLEEPER!

STAY BACK, NORMIE--I'VE GOT THIS--

UNNGH!

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

I DON'T GOT THIS.

I DON'T GOT THIS!

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

I'VE GOT IT, KID.

YOU JUST STAY OUT OF THE--

UNNGH!

NO DISTRACTIONS!

LET THEM FIGHT!

IT MAKES US STRONGERRR!

KAAANNG.

RASCAL, STOP IT! WHAT ARE YOU--

NORMIE OSBORN, IS IT?

HISTORY DOES NOT REMEMBER YOU *FONDLY,* NORMIE. AND I *AM* HISTORY.

I AM KANG.

IF YOU'RE *HEARING* THIS, IT MEANS THE *PROGRAM* I ENCODED INTO THE RASCAL SYMBIOTE HAS *ACTIVATED.*

YOUR SYMBIOTE WAS BUILT BY *ME,* YOU SEE. DERIVED FROM *BEDLAM** AND PROGRAMMED WITH TECHNIQUES I LEARNED FROM *MERIDIUS.***

THEN I SIMPLY *PLANTED* IT IN THE 21ST CENTURY FOR DYLAN BROCK TO *FIND.****

KANG THE CONQUEROR.

FAR IN THE FUTURE.

*VENOM #25.
**VENOM #29.
***VENOM #15.

SOUNDS COMPLICATED? WELCOME TO MY WORLD--AND TO MY WAR.

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET...AND NEITHER HAS DOOM.

I KNOW HE'S GOING TO INFILTRATE YOUR SYMBIOTE HIVE SOMEHOW...BUT HIS REVENGE DOESN'T ALIGN WITH MY CONQUEST.

SO WHEN HE MAKES HIS MOVE, DISRUPT HIM. TAKE HIS PAWN OFF THE BOARD.

WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE.

AARRGH

D-DYLAN...

...GET OUT OF THERE!

GET OUT NOW!

KAAANG!

NORMIE...?

THWIP

METAL PA-B

KAAANG!

KRROOOM

KAAANG!

WHAT...WHAT JUST *HAPPENED...?*

DAMN IT, BEDLAM! EDDIE'S *DYING* OVER THERE--

NO!

THE PROXY WAR BETWEEN DOOM AND KANG CONTINUES IN *VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR #1!*

EDDIE'S HERE! ME! THE REAL EDDIE!

BEFORE I GOT SOFT! BEFORE I GOT WEAK!

BEFORE I FORGOT--

--JUST HOW MUCH I HATE YOU!

YEAH, YEAH. ONE SEC.

HEY, CRUSHER! SAWBONES!

YOU GUYS ARE HOLDING THE **FORT** RIGHT NOW, YEAH? CAN YOU WORK THE **ENTRANCE MUSIC** FROM THERE?

WELL, THE WHOLE SYSTEM RUNS OFF AN **APP**, SO...

WHAT DO YOU **WANT**, SPIDEY?

SOMETHING **CLASSIC.**

AND MAKE IT **LOUD.**

AAARRRGHHH!

THAT'S ONE HUNDRED DECIBELS OF "POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE," BEDLAM!

WHO'S OLD-SCHOOL NOW?

THE SOUND... HURTS...

BUT IT HURTS YOU *LESS.* YOU'VE LEARNED TO *DEAL* WITH IT.

IF THE BEDLAM SYMBIOTE IS EDDIE FROM *WAY BACK WHEN*--HE *HASN'T!*

SPIDERRR! I'LL KILL YOU!

THE QUESTION IS, WHAT WE DO WITH THE *TIME* THAT BUYS US---?

PETER. LOOK.

EDDIE NEEDS ME.

THAT LOOKS BAD, ALL RIGHT.. WE GOTTA GET HIM INTO A SYMBIOTE FAST--

TOXIN ALREADY HAS A HOST TO HEAL. SLEEPER NEEDS TO HEAL HIMSELF.

EDDIE NEEDS ME...

...AND HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.

DAD, GET UP!

YOU HAVE TO GET UP, YOU HAVE TO HEAL--

I'M OUT OF WHACK. CAN'T... CAN'T FIX MYSELF.

SORRY... SORRY I MESSED UP SO BAD...

NO! DON'T LET GO!

DON'T, DAD! DON'T DO THIS!

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN--

I THOUGHT IF I STAYED AWAY, IT WOULD KEEP THEM SAFE.

EDDIE. DYLAN. EVEN YOU.

I THOUGHT I WAS POISON TO YOU ALL. I EVEN MADE IT MY NAME...

BUT LOOK AT HIM, PETER. HE IS ONLY A CHILD, BURDENED BY THE FATE OF ALL TIME...

HE NEEDS ME.

IN A WAY YOU NEVER DID.

HIM AND EDDIE BOTH...

TIME'S UP

TIME'S UP, SPIDER-MAN!

YEAH.

TIME TO CHOOSE.

THERE IS A MOMENT OF *DISLOCATION.*

AS I'M TORN FROM MY *OLDEST HOST,* THE MOMENT *STRETCHES...* A MOMENT OF WHAT *MIGHT HAVE BEEN...*

THWIP

...AND WHAT MIGHT *BE.*

EDDIE AND DYLAN WENT TO *WAR...* BECAUSE IF *EITHER* OF THEM BECAME MY HOST, A *TERRIBLE FUTURE* WOULD FOLLOW.

PETER THOUGHT THE SOLUTION WAS THAT *NEITHER* SHOULD WEAR ME.

BUT THERE'S A *BETTER* ANSWER.

AS I MAKE *CONTACT*--LINKING WITH THEIR *MINDS*--I BEGIN TO THINK IN *STEREO.*

AND THEN... *FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME...*

...WE! ARE! VENOM!

TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM WAR

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!

VENOM #38

VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN #3

CHECKLIST

~~08/07/24 VENOM WAR 1~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM 36~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1~~

~~08/28/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR 2~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM 37~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2~~

10/02/24 VENOM WAR 3

10/02/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3

10/09/24 VENOM 38

10/09/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2

10/16/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2

10/16/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3

10/23/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3

10/23/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2

10/30/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3

10/30/24 VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1

11/06/24 VENOM WAR 4

11/06/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4

11/13/24 VENOM 39

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1

11/27/24 VENOM WAR 5

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR ***BRAINS***--
I MEAN, YOUR ***LETTERS!*** SEND YOUR NOTES TO
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM. BE SURE
TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

VENOM WAR #4

VENOM HORSE, PART 3
BY EWING, NIETO, D'ARMATA & MAHER.

HOLY TOLEDO! VENOM HORSE IS MUSCLIN' IN ON DA MOB FUNERAL!

IN HIS PREFACE TO THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY, OSCAR WILDE ENGAGES IN VARIOUS APHORISMS ON THE NATURE OF ART.

"THE ARTIST IS THE CREATOR OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS," IT BEGINS, AND CONTINUES IN HIS SIGNATURE STYLE.

GLERK!

"THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A MORAL OR AN IMMORAL BOOK. BOOKS ARE WELL WRITTEN OR BADLY WRITTEN. THAT IS ALL.

"VICE AND VIRTUE ARE TO THE ARTIST MATERIALS FOR AN ART."

"ALL ART IS AT ONCE SURFACE AND SYMBOL. THOSE WHO GO BENEATH THE SURFACE DO SO AT THEIR PERIL.

"THOSE WHO READ THE SYMBOL DO SO AT THEIR PERIL."

THE ESSAY ENDS WITH THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE ONLY EXCUSE FOR MAKING A USELESS THING IS THAT ONE ADMIRES IT INTENSELY.

"ALL ART IS QUITE USELESS."

AS EVER, I'M VENOM HORSE!

RESPECT THE DEAD, VENOM HORSE!